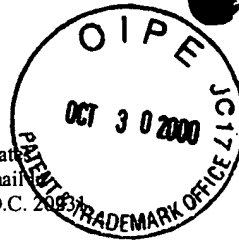


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Date: Oct. 26, 2000

N. Kenneth Burraston
N. Kenneth Burraston



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Lamping et al.)	
Serial No.:	09/124,805)	
Attorney Docket No.	D/98205Q1)	Art Unit: 2779
Filed:	July 29, 1998)	
Title:	Local Relative Layout of Node- Link Structures in Space with Negative Curvature)	Examiner: T. Havan

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action dated April 27, 2000, the period for response to which has been extended to October 27, 2000 by the accompanying petition for a three-month extension of time, reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The examiner rejected each of the fifteen claims pending in the above-referenced application on two grounds: (1) obvious-type double patenting in view of claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,632 (the "'632 patent"); and (2) anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) also in view of the '632 patent. Applicants respectfully traverse both grounds.

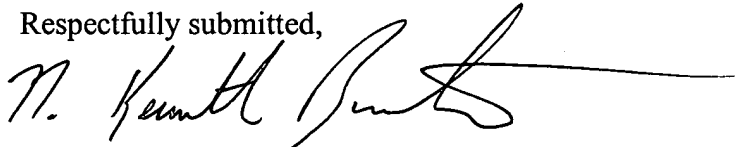
With respect to both the rejection on the grounds of obvious-type double patenting and anticipation (both of which are based on the '632 patent), neither the claims nor the disclosure of the '632 patent teach or suggest obtaining nearby relationship data or obtaining layout data based on the nearby relationship data as required by the claims of the instant application. Absent such

teachings or suggestions in the claims and disclosure of the '632 patent, the claims pending in the instant application patentably distinguish over the claims and disclosure of the '632 patent.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the obvious-type double patenting and anticipation rejections be withdrawn and the claims in the instant application be allowed.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a three-month extension of time extending the period for response to the Office Action dated April 27, 2000 to October 27, 2000, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this petition to deposit account no. 50-0440. The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charged any deficiencies in the fees due in connection with the filing of this response to deposit account no. 50-0440. A duplicate copy of this paper is submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



N. Kenneth Burraston
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 39,923

Date: Oct. 26, 2000

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